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ABSTRACT

Designed to motivate eighth-grade civics students in the study of the United States Constitution, this game is intended to simulate the basic problems faced by the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787. The four parts of the game introduce the governmental concepts of the bicameral legislature, the executive branch, the judicial branch, and the Electoral College. Each game part, which can be role played by 15 to 67 students and which requires simple parliamentary or group discussion skills, is designed to be played within one class period. Instructions for play are given along with the needed materials: (1) profile cards and prepared speeches for President George Washington and Benjamin Franklin; (2) profile cards for 13 state delegations; (3) blank "Constitution of the United States"; and (4) voting record sheet. Instructions for making name cards for each state delegation are also given. (EM)

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CONVENTION PROBLEMS - 1787

GAME SYNOPSIS

Date: 7 July, 1977 Author: Deroy L. HANSON

Subject Field: Social Studies

Name of Game: CONVENTION PROBLEMS - 1787

Target Population: ___pre-primary, ___primary, XXX junior high, ___special education, XXX high school, ___vocational, ___college, ___graduate school, ___military, ___continuing education, ___management, ___other.

Skills needed by players: Simple parliamentary or group discussion skills.

Time: 30 min. minimum, 2 hours maximum.

Special equipment: See materials list enclosed--provided.

Number of players: 15 minimum, 67 maximum.

Educational objectives: Motivation for, and to introduce the study of the U.S. Constitution, to be played in four parts introducing:

1. The Legislative Branch.
2. The Executive Branch.
3. The Electoral College.
4. The Judicial Branch.

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CONVENTION PROBLEMS 1787

OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of these games is to provide motivation for the study of various portions of the U.S. Constitution. This is to be accomplished by providing students with an introduction to the basic problems faced by the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787.

This game set has four parts to introduce the students to four basic concepts in the study of the Constitution. They are:

Part 1: Bicameral Legislature. This part introduces the impass between the big states who wanted votes according to their population and the little states who wanted votes to be divided equally among the states in order to protect them against the overwhelming size of the bigger states. The result was the "Great Compromise" giving us our current House of Representatives and Senate. The students may or may not be able to reach a similar compromise. Do slaves count as population?

Part 2: The Executive Branch. What kind of a chief executive should the new nation have, and how should the administrative departments be organized to assist him? This gives the students a chance to see the conflict between states needing a strong central government, and those who feared it.

Part 3: We Elect A President. (Maybe) Are we really a Democracy? Can the common people be trusted to choose the president by direct vote? Probably not as things turn out here. This will allow the teacher to compare student results with the "Electoral College".

Part 4: Courts, who needs them? Maybe we need federal courts and maybe we don't. If we need them, what kind should they be, and how much power should they have. Not only an introduction to the Supreme Court but students may also come up with other inferior and/or special courts.

FLEXIBILITY:

This game is designed for 8th grade civics classes, with each part to run not longer than one class period. Teachers may modify or expand various parts by introducing additional questions to be considered by the delegates. A more formal writing out of propositions to be submitted to the president for vote could be required if desired. Also, delegates might be required to research the historical setting of their state before proceeding with the convention business.

The game format could also be used to include a fifth part concerning the design of a bill of rights to be added as amendments to the Constitution. This would help introduce a study of amendments, the amending processes, and the bill of rights itself, although additional information would have to be generated for each delegation to consider in their deliberations.

THE PLAYERS:

Minimum: 15 (However smaller numbers could play by giving one player two or three roles to play.)

Optimum: 28 (Two players for each state delegation plus one playing Ben Franklin and one playing George Washington.)

Maximum: 67 (This provides 5 players for each delegation plus two extra players acting as Franklin and Washington.)

OPTIONAL ADDITIONS:

Secretary - To assist President Washington in his paper work and counting votes.

Sergent at arms - To help the President maintain order. Could require 2 or 3 depending on the size of the group playing.

Press - 2 or 3 players could be assigned to interview delegates and report on the progress of the convention, and even write up a newspaper.

PLAYING TIME:

This game should be playable in a single class period or less, however the teacher should be prepared to be flexible. The problem will come up in how long informal discussions are allowed. Also a significant variable will be in how many propositions are presented for a vote, and how long it takes for the players to reach an acceptable compromise. If good learning is taking place in the discussions, the teacher may wish to allow the game to last two or even three class periods. If student skills in parliamentary procedure are very weak and it seems impossible for them to arrive at an acceptable compromise, it may be advisable to terminate the game before an acceptable compromise proposition has been approved. Obviously, game time will vary from group to group.

THE PLAY:

Each part will follow an identical procedure:

1. Teacher prepare and distribute materials, prepare room and students to play the game.

2. Teacher will assign students to various roles or delegations. Selection of students for role of Franklin and Washington should be made carefully.

3. Teacher read game instructions to students.

4. Washington, as President, will:

   A. Call convention to order.

   B. Read his speech for the appropriate game.

   C. Recess the convention for meetings and discussions between delegates.

   D. Call convention to order.

   E. Call for proposals from the State Delegations.

   F. Conduct vote on these proposals. Each state has only ONE vote. Record votes on voting record sheet. Repeat C through F as necessary to reach an acceptable compromise.

   G. George Washington will himself write, or ask his secretary to write briefly the winning proposal as a new article for the Constitution on the sheet provided.

   H. Recognize "Ben Franklin" for a speech.

   I. Ask the delegates to come forward and sign the proposed new article for the Constitution.

(GAME ENDS)

5. Teacher will accept the proposed new article, which may be posted for display if other classes are also playing the same game.

6. The teacher will now have opportunity to invite class discussion of the problems faced by the delegates, and compare it to real life.

7. Teacher introduces study unit on (1) Legislative Branch; (2) The Executive Branch; (3) The Electoral College; or (4) The Judicial Branch.

MATERIALS LIST:

1. Folded Name cards for each State Delegation. (Not Provided)

   SUGGESTION: Use 5 x 8 cards folded lengthwise to stand up. Label big state names in all capitals. Small states using small letters. Use different colors for northern and southern states.

2. Profile card for President George Washington.

3. Prepared speeches for George Washington.

4. Profile card for Benjamin Franklin.

5. Prepared speeches for Benjamin Franklin.

6. Profile cards for 13 state delegations.

7. Blank "Constitution of the United States". (May need several.)

8. Voting Record Sheet. (May need more than one.)

9. Teacher instructions for each game.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BE READ BY TEACHER

NOTE: Instructions assume sequential play of each part. Items in parentheses may be modified to fit findings of previous play if desired.

GAME 1: You have all been assigned a role as a member of a State's Delegation to the Constitution Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. The Convention has unanimously elected George Washington to be its president. We are also honored by the presence of the great Benjamin Franklin in the delegation from Pennsylvania. Please read the profile card for your delegation. For this game you will be particularly concerned with the paragraphs entitled Congress and Slaves. Your problem will be to arrive at an agreement on what kind of a Legislature we need for our new government. Everyone agrees that the Articles of Confederation have failed. Under the Articles we had a Congress where each state had one vote, and it had only one house. Try to get an agreement on a solution that will best fit your profile card. You must have a complete agreement by the end of the playing period of else you will be assumed to have failed.

GAME 2: The Convention of 1787 continues under the presidency of General George Washington. Please carefully read your delegation's profile card. The paragraph entitled "President" specifically applies to this game. The chief executive under the Articles of Confederation was little more than a clerk, with practically no one to help him. This has not worked out very well. What kind of a head of state do you want to have under the new Constitution? That is your problem, and you must solve it during this game period or we will consider that the Union has failed.

GAME 3: The Constitutional Convention is still in session, having decided that we need a (President) as our chief executive. Now the problem is how to select the best man for the job! Read your delegation's profile card carefully, particularly the part about Elections. If you cannot find an acceptable method to choose a (President) then we won't ever have one. If you cannot solve this problem before the end of the game period, the Union is lost.

GAME 4: The Convention of 1787 had certain advantages in attempting to develop the outline for a new government, it could follow the example of the State governments. Most of them had 3 parts, a legislative branch, or Congress, an executive branch, or Governor, and a Judicial branch or Court System. The question you must solve in this game is whether or not the federal government under the Constitution really needs a court system. If you decide that it does, then you must specify what kind of courts you want. The paragraph on your profile cards entitled "Courts" is of particular importance in this problem. You must solve this problem before the end of the gaming period or the nation will divide.

GEORGE WASHINGTON PROFILE CARD

You have been unanimously elected to be the president of this convention because all the delegates respect you and honor your war record. You strongly believe in freedom, government by the people, and in honor, integrety and honesty.

You are also a delegate from Virginia and may participate with that state in all discussions, etc. You may only vote as a member of this delegation.

YOU AND YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RUNNING OF THIS CONVENTION, AND KEEPING ORDER.

PROCEDURES: (For each game)

1. Call Convention to order.
2. Read your speech for that game.
3. Recess convention for meetings and discussions between members.
4. Call meeting to order.
5. Call for proposals from the states.
6. Vote on various proposals to find the best one. (each state has only 1 vote) Repeat 3-5 as necessary. Record votes on Voting Record Sheet.
7. Write briefly the winning proposal on the "Constitution" sheet provided.
8. Recognize "Ben Franklin" for a speech.
9. Ask the delegates to sign the proposed article for the Constitution.

WATCH YOUR TIME, GAME MUST BE COMPLETED DURING THIS CLASS PERIOD.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PROFILE CARD

You are the oldest, and wisest delegate here. All the other delegates greatly respect you as a leader in the fight for democracy and for the founding of our nation.

PROBLEM: In each game, the delegates will be seriously divided about the problems. You must visit with them informally and try your best to get them to compromise with one another to reach a workable solution to each problem. Yours is the voice of compromise and conciliation.

COMPROMISE: In at least one of the profile cards for the state delegations there will be an idea that will lead to a successful compromise of the problem. There is no ONE correct answer. ANY answer that will work and satisfy the minimum demands of each delegation is a correct answer.

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION. You must cooperate with them and vote in their discussions, etc. However, your most IMPORTANT JOB is to visit other delegates and help them to see the need for compromise. You are totally committed to the UNION.

SPEECHES: You will be called on to make a speech just before the signing of the proposed article of the Constitution. The purpose of your speech is to encourage all the delegates to sign, so that the people will accept the new Constitution and its new federal government. Feel free to add details to your speeches that apply to each particular game.

SOUTH CAROLINA DELEGATION

Your state is small, but prosperous, very much Southern, and very proud, and anxious to maintain its independent sovereignty, therefore fearful of a strong federal government. Since the north is anti-slavery, you favor a separate nation for the southern slave states, but are willing to stay in the Union if your rights are protected.

CONGRESS: Every state should have equal voice in the legislature.

SLAVES: An absolute must, not to be touched by yankees! If population becomes a measure of representation in Congress, slaves should count for 3/4th as much as free whites since they are productive people.

PRESIDENT: Keep him weak so he cannot interfere with the rights of your State. Needed to run the government, but give him assistants to help, and thus weaken his power.

ELECTIONS: Only property owners should have the right to vote. Transients and poor folk have no "vested interest" in the economy and government of the State.

COURTS: No federal court system desired. State courts should be free to decide all questions of law, even federal laws.

You are a SMALL SOUTHERN STATE

NEW HAMPSHIRE DELEGATION

Your state has many problems, and you need effective help from the federal government. Already a couple of dozen towns on your eastern border have seceeded from your state to join Vermont, and you want them back. Only a strong federal government can get them back for you.

CONGRESS: It should fairly represent everybody and all the States too.

SLAVES: A minor matter to you since you are not involved, however, you opposed slavery as being very evil.

PRESIDENT: You want a strong chief of state, a chief governor to be able to run the government business. He obviously will need assistants and should have some type of organization to help him. He could be elected by members of Congress, since they would know the most about each candidate.

ELECTIONS: One of your major problems has been getting fair representation in your own state government. You believe in Democracy, but you don't trust the common, uneducated poor people to make important decisions in elections.

COURTS: You want to keep all the courts under the control of the States so that the rights of the states will be protected. However, there may be some problems which only a federal court can handle.

You are a SMALL NORTHERN STATE

NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATION

Your state is diverse, agricultural, and growing. Many farmers are fiercely independent and not interested in joining a Union with the other States, however the rich aristocrats who rule the state government see advantages in the Union. Indian problems on the frontier have been handled by state militia, but federal army troops are needed.

CONGRESS: You feel that the large states with bigger population should get more votes.

SLAVES: You need them. No slaves = no Union, simple as that. Someday, the slave trade with Africa must stop, but not today.

PRESIDENT: Someone has to control the various functions of the government, but you are afraid of a king or dictator. Term of office could be for life, subject to recall or impeachment. He will need assistants to run various branches such as the Army.

ELECTIONS: You think that only specially qualified or chosen people should elect the President. Only rich landholders really have a voice in your state government because the poorer people simply do not know enough or care enough to make proper choices.

COURTS: There may be some limited need for a federal court of some type, but you need to be convinced. You don't want any more federal interference in your State than is necessary. Your state courts work OK, let them handle any law problems that come up.

You are a LARGE SOUTHERN STATE

VIRGINIA DELEGATION

Yours is a rich, prosperous state, but problems exist with overseas trade. Our nation is not strong enough to enforce its treaties. Trade between states is a problem. The Articles have failed and you want to establish a better, stronger Union. Also, Spain is trying to keep the western territories out of our Union through Indian uprisings. This must be stopped.

CONGRESS: Since big states like Virginia will be paying most of the taxes, they should have a bigger voice in Congress than the small states.

SLAVES: Slave trade to Africa must end, in about 20 years, but slaves are vital to your plantation economy. Also, slaves are people, and should count for at least half as much as free whites, or even more, such as two-fifths or three-forths, when determining representation in the Congress.

PRESIDENT: We need as strong a president as possible in a democracy, and he needs assistants to help him, particularly to help run the Navy.

ELECTIONS: Should be a right limited to landowning men who have a real interest in the welfare of the State.

COURTS: Need some type of federal court system, but limited so as not to hurt the rights of the individual States.

You are a LARGE SOUTHERN STATE

GEORGIA DELEGATION

Things are generally going well in Georgia. Farming, particularly plantations with slave labor, is the backbone of your economy. But, you are having trouble with Indian tribes stirred up by Spanish agents that harass and murder settlers on your southern and western frontiers. You need federal help to protect these settlers.

CONGRESS: Must have equal voice for each state. Yours is a small state and you fear the power of large states like Virginia and New York.

SLAVES: Slave trade must end someday, but this is not that day. Slavery must be allowed.

PRESIDENT: You fear a dictator. Must not be too strong, and the rights of your state to be independent must not be compromised. But the chief executive must have power to help you suppress the Indians, and that means an Army, supported by taxes.

ELECTIONS: In your state only the rich are educated and able to participate in the democratic processes of government. You are afraid of the ignorant poor, that they would ruin the nation by their unwise votes.

COURTS: You want no federal court system. Courts established by each State can handle any question of law, and best protect the States from federal power.

You are a SMALL SOUTHERN STATE

DELEWARE DELEGATION

Your state is small and troubled by the economic problems of international trade. You actively support a strong union under a new Constitution. You need government support to ensure your foreign trade. Union under a strong federal government is vital.

CONGRESS: You want equal representation for every state in congress, but are agreeable to some provision for population differences.

SLAVES: Not very important, as you are a manufacturing and shipping state. Your sympathies lie with the North, but you support the slavery of the South. You have some slaves on plantation.

PRESIDENT: You want a strong chief of state who will give you a strong NAVY to support and protect your shipping. He will need assistants to run things for him, like the Navy.

ELECTIONS: You have a well educated population, and favor democratic elections where all eligible men can vote (21 years old and a citizen.)

COURTS: You favor a federal court system to handle federal laws. Particularly a Supreme Court to decide questions about the Constitution. State courts should have unlimited power over state laws.

You are a SMALL SOUTHERN STATE

15

MARYLAND DELEGATION

Yours is a large prosperous state with farming, manufacturing, shipbuilding and shipping interests. You actively desire a strong union under the new Constitution to protect your shipping and trade with other countries. You support creation of a NAVY. You feel close to the North.

CONGRESS: Large states will pay more taxes, therefore they should have a bigger vote in Congress. One vote for each state seems unfair, although small states need some kind of protection.

SLAVES: You have a large tobacco industry that needs slaves on plantations. Slavery is bad and needs to be ended someday, but not now.

PRESIDENT: He needs to be strong enough to protect our trade, our shipping and our treaties overseas. He needs some kind of organization to help him run the government. Particularly, someone should run the ARMY to keep the President from having too much power.

ELECTIONS: You have always required some property ownership in order to have the right to vote. You are not in favor of giving all adults the right to vote.

COURTS: You agree that some kind of federal court system is necessary, and maybe it could be used to keep the Congress and President from acting unconstitutionally.

You are a LARGE SOUTHERN STATE

16

PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION

Your state is largely agricultural and prosperous, but you are troubled by the problems of trade between the States. Obviously, the Articles of Confederation have failed and we need a new, stronger CONSTITUTION. You desperately want to preserve the UNION.

CONGRESS: The present system of one vote for each state doesn't work too well. Population should be considered, but the small States should have equal rights.

SLAVES: You oppose slavery, but the Union is more important.

PRESIDENT: Needs to have enough power to make the federal government work. He needs some kind of organization to help him do things. The Postal Service, for example, should be run by a Post Office Department run by somebody other than the President.

ELECTIONS: Generally the common people do not know enough about people in other states to intelligently elect the best candidate for President, therefore some other system should be used. In England, the Parliament elects a Prime Minister (President) from among its own members.

COURTS: Must have a federal court to rule on federal laws.

You are a LARGE NORTHERN STATE

NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

Your state not doing well under current Articles of Confederation. You support a strong union only if your States Rights are protected. Seek assistance from other small states.

CONGRESS: You insist on equal votes for each State. If votes are according to population Virginia and Pennsylvania could alone outvote all 7 small states (N.H., N.J., R.I., Conn., Del., S.C., and Ga.) and so you might as well stay home and not attend. If you cannot be protected against the big states you will be forced to withdraw from the Union.

SLAVES: You believe slavery should be done away with someday, and the sooner the better.

PRESIDENT: Needs to be strong enough to do the job. Could hold office for life, or for a set term. Need some kind of organization to help him. Postal service is a mess, needs immediate attention.

ELECTIONS: Qualified voters may not know enough to intelligently elect a President. Maybe have special electors appointed by the Governors to elect him?

COURTS: You feel that some system of courts is needed to handle certain federal problems, but that most questions of law should be left to the state courts.

You are a SMALL NORTHERN STATE

NEW YORK DELEGATION

Your state has suffered much distress because of the different types of currency and the inability of the federal government to maintain trade agreements and treaties. You must build a stronger Union.

CONGRESS: One state-one vote hasn't worked out very well under the Articles of Conf. Therefore, you would like more votes for the larger populations in the bigger States.

SLAVES: You oppose slavery generally.

PRESIDENT: We need a chief executive with power to run the governmental services. We also need someone to take over in an emergency if he dies. Taxes and a Treasury Department to handle them is an obvious need. But the president can't handle the problems of the treasury alone.

ELECTIONS: Your state has imposed rather stringent property requirements for all persons who want to vote. The common people are excluded because they have no permanent interest in the State, nor are they smart enough to vote for the best candidates. You like this idea.

COURTS: All the State Courts rule differently on questions about federal laws. Therefore, you insist on some type of Federal Court system to handle all questions about federal laws.

You are a LARGE NORTHERN STATE

CONNECTICUT DELEGATION

Your state has different industries and farms, and is potentially prosperous. However, trade between the states has been very difficult and expensive without strong federal controls, and your state is having a hard time paying its debts.

CONGRESS: You like a 2 house system like the Parliament in England. You would be willing to have one house with representatives according to the population, and another where each State is represented equally. But you want the small states protected.

SLAVES: You don't need them, don't like them, and don't want them. Slavery is bad!

PRESIDENT: You like the title Governor General, since it is most like the State governments that exist now. Elect him for 2 years, and then, if you like him, keep him for 2 more years by another election. But 4 years in office should be enough.

ELECTIONS: Let the voice of the common man be heard. Congress should be elected by the people of each State, and so should the chief executive. Just because a person is poor doesn't make him any less a citizen!

COURTS: Must have a federal tax court to keep down taxes between states and keep trade fair! Some type of federal court system is needed to solve problems between states.

You are a SMALL NORTHERN STATE

RHODE ISLAND DELEGATION

Your state has suffered economic distress caused by taxes between states for trade, and by foreign countries not meeting their obligations under treaties of trade. But you are afraid of a strong Union with the big states because yours is so small. You must have guaranteed protection of your rights as an independent state, or you will not stay in the Union. You have been printing lots of paper money to pay off your debts from the Revolutionary War, but you recognize that this is not a good thing, since your paper money is now almost worthless.

CONGRESS: Each state must have equal representation.

SLAVES: Generally bad, but you are not upset about slavery in the south.

PRESIDENT: Must be someone like a State Governor to run the affairs of the nation, but not too strong.

ELECTIONS: Only the educated, wealthy, landed aristocracy can participate in your state government elections, and it seems like a good system, although some people are seeking wider voting privi-ledges in your state.

COURTS: You are not particularly interested in having any federal courts. Your own State courts are your own best protection against the big states and the federal government.

You are a SMALL NORTHERN STATE

MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATION

Your state just suffered under Shea's Rebellion 1786-1787, resulting from too many farm foreclosures for debts and taxes. Something has to be done to get the country going. Traditionally you have supported freedom and democracy under one federal nation. The Articles of Confederation are too weak to work, you need a stronger government.

CONGRESS: One vote for each state has not worked well. You want votes for the bigger states that have more people.

SLAVES: You are against slavery, but the Union must come first.

PRESIDENT: Somehow you must have a head of the federal government that can run the business of government effectively. Most important, something must be done about international relations, because they effect trade with other countries and the safety of your ships at sea. A secretary of State is one means of handling these affairs, running a "State Department" with ambassadors, etc.

ELECTIONS: You feel that the president could best be elected by members of the State Legislatures. In your state only people who own a minimum amount of property can vote, but even they don't know enough about all the candidates to elect the right man for the job.

COURTS: Since all States have different laws and their courts decide things differently, there should be a higher federal court that can be appealed to for justice.

You are a LARGE NORTHERN STATE

GEORGE WASHINGTON's SPEECHES

(To be given at the beginning of each game, immediately after the Convention has been called to order.)

GAME 1. Fellow Americans and Delegates: I humbly and sincerely thank each of you for the honor you have bestowed on me by electing me to be president of this convention. I shall do my best to live up to this high honor, and ask most earnestly for your personal cooperation to help me do my job.

We have all generally agreed that the Articles of Confederation do not work, and that we need a new Constitution, indeed, a new government. Our first problem is to create a legislature to replace the ineffective Congress that currently exists.

I propose that no resolution be adopted unless at least 9 of the states shall agree. Our biggest problem is to get the North and the South to agree, and the Big States and the Little States to agree. Is there any objection to this proposal? (If so you must work out an agreement now!!!)

Gentlemen, the convention is recessed for _____ minutes, while the delegates meet informally to prepare proposals for a new congress.

GAME 2. Fellow Delegates: No government, no organization, no business, nor even a ship at sea can function without someone being in charge. Even our various state governments have governors in charge to carry out the wishes of the state legislators. We can do no less for our federal government. We must create a chief executive.

Further, no one man can run a government's business by himself. He will need an adminstrative organization to help him. We must also provide the framework for such an organization.

Again I will remind the delegates, no proposal will be accepted unless at least 9 states agree.

This convention is recessed for _____ minutes while the delegates meet informally to prepare their proposals.

GAME 3. My Friends and Fellow Delegates: We have decided on what kind of a chief executive our nation shall have. Certainly he must be the finest person our nation has to offer, this is obvious. But how shall we select that person? Shall he be appointed, chosen by lot, or elected? And if elected, by whom? Shall each State have an equal vote in his selection, or shall the votes be according to the population? Whatever system you may decide upon must work to the benefit of the nation as a whole.

I now recess this convention for _____ minutes so that the delegates may prepare their proposals.

GAME 4. Fellow Delegates: Our new Congress will create laws which may be broken from time to time.. What courts shall sit in judgement over those transgressors? Questions may come up whether or not some act of the government violates our Constitution. Who shall decide if this be so or not? Shall we have federal courts? If so what kind and how many?

This convention is recessed for _____ minutes while the delegates consider their proposals.

BEN FRANKLIN's SPEECHES

(To be given prior to the final voting and signing of the propositions for the new constitution.)

GAME 1: Mr. President and fellow delegates: We have the grave responsibility to create a federal government that will bind our several states together in harmony and in strength. I deem that it is not possible for us to create a perfect government in all respects. Indeed, in this proposal, there are many things about which I am unsure, but I am not sure that we can do any better. The people of our states must now decide on whether to accept or reject our efforts. If we cannot all support this new Congress, then will our people? If we truely desire this Union, then let us all sign and approve this Constitution.

GAME 2: Mr. President and fellow delegates: We desire no new king, nor will we tolerate any dictator. But we must have a head of state to bring together all the arms of our government. I confess that this proposition may not be perfect, but can we as men create any better? If, in our experience with this proposition, we find it less than good, then we can change it, but we need it now. Let us therefore encourage our people and give it unanimous approval, let each delegate sign this proposition, that our people shall agree and approve this Union.

GAME 3: Mr. President, friends, and fellow delegates: The selection of the chief executive is a most weighty matter. In a democracy, all the people must somehow have an opportunity to be heard, but they may not be the best informed or qualified to make a selection. This proposal seems to meet our needs. Can we agree on any better? I think not, even though I am not sure that this is the best. Therefore, I support it with all my heart. I am proud of this proposal and am ready to be the first to sign it. I pray that all of you will join me.

GAME 4: August delegates: The question of a federal court system is fundamental to this Constitution. Some of us object to this new proposal, but was it better under the Articles of Confederation? No, it was not, Surely this proposition deserves a chance. What better safeguard for democracy than this? Shall we not have government by law, and accountable to the law? How then without courts? I hope that each delegate here will show our people his support and join with me in signing this proposition.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

ARTICLE NUMBER _____ TITLE: _____

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_____

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We the undersigned delegates do hereby approve and recommend to all people of these United States this article of our proposed new Constitution.

New Hampshire: _____

_____

Rhode Island: _____

_____

Connecticut: _____

_____

New Jersey: _____

_____

Deleware: _____

_____

South Carolina: _____

_____

Georgia: _____

_____

Massachusetts: _____

_____

New York: _____

_____

Pennsylvania: _____

_____

Maryland: _____

_____

Virginia: _____

_____

North Carolina: _____

_____

VOTING RECORD

PROPOSITIONS:

	1		2		3		4		5	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Connecticut										
Delaware										
Georgia										
Maryland										
Massachusetts										
New Hampshire										
New Jersey										
New York										
North Carolina										
Pennsylvania										
Rhode Island										
South Carolina										
Virginia										
Total Votes:										

NOTES: